

Mendota Unified School District

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Gilbert Rossette, Superintendent



To: James W. Reede, Jr. Ed.D.
Project Manager
From: Gilbert Rossette
Superintendent, Mendota Unified School District
Date: July 26, 2007
Re: Public Comments--Panoche Energy Center Project

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| DOCKET | |
| 06-AFC-5 | |
| DATE | JUL 26 2007 |
| RECD. | JUL 30 2007 |

Dear Dr. Reede:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the residents of the Mendota Unified School district, I am respectfully submitting this correspondence regarding the Panoche Energy Center Project as it pertains to the District's public comments.

The Mendota Unified School District is very concerned with the potential negative impact the project may have in our area as it relates to the emission of pollutants that affect the health and welfare of our students and community residents.

The District is very concerned that the proposed project may increase the detrimental impact on the air quality for the students and residents in our district. Students and community members that suffer from asthma, bronchitis or emphysema will be at greater risk. During several "Spare the Air" days this past school year, we dealt with many students suffering from lung inflammation, shortness of breath, chest pain, coughing, throat irritation and congestion. The District is also concerned with the health and safety of students, senior citizens, people with lung disease and residents that readily participate in outdoor recreational and leisure activities.

In a recent interview, Governor Schwarzenegger stated, "When one out of six residents in the San Joaquin Valley has been diagnosed with asthma and one in five children carry an inhaler to school, it is a call to action." The District supports the governor's emphasis on cleaner air! Along with the benefits of longer and healthier lives for the students and residents in our area, cleaner air will result in a reduction of health care costs. In closing, it is everyone's responsibility to promote and protect the public's health and safety.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the residents of the Mendota Unified School District, I want to thank you for your time, patience and understanding.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Rossette
Gilbert Rossette
Superintendent

"Building Scholars, Leaders and Champions"